DOCUMENT RESUME

ED 354 888 IR 054 393

AUTHOR	Mahon, Barry, Ed.
TITLE	European Association of Information Services (EUSIDIC) Annual Conference (Porto, Portugal, October 13-15, 1992). Programme and Summary Presentations.
INSTITUTION	European Association of Information Services (Luxembourg).
REPORT NO	ISSN-0-141-6243
PUB DATE	92
NOTE	21p.
PUB TYPE	Collected Works - Conference Proceedings (021) -- Collected Works - Serials (022) -- Historical Materials (060)
JOURNAL CIT	Newsidic; n115 Nov-Dec 1992
EDRS PRICE	MF01/PC01 Plus Postage.
DESCRIPTORS	Copyrights; Foreign Countries; *Information Services; *Information Technology; Optical Data Disks; Professional Associations; Publishing Industry; *Technological Advancement
IDENTIFIERS	Europe; *European Association of Information Services; *Information Industry; Information Products; Vendors

ABSTRACT

This newsletter issue reports on the 1992 EUSIDIC annual conference. The conference program is included, and conference presentations from five sessions, entitled "Technology Trends," "Images and Imagination," "New Techniques, New Problems," "Commercial Changes," "New Audiences for Information," and "The Image Invasion," are summarized. The newsletter also presents a history of the 25-year-old IDC-KTHB, a Swedish information organization. (KRN)

****
* Reproductions supplied by EDRS are the best that can be made *
* from the original document. *
****

U.S. DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION
Office of Educational Research and Improvement
EDUCATIONAL RESOURCES INFORMATION CENTER (ERIC)

☐ This document has been reproduced as received from the person or organization originating it.

☐ Minor changes have been made to improve reproduction quality.

• Points of view or opinions stated in this document do not necessarily represent official OERI position or policy.

NEWSIDIC

NEWSLETTER OF THE EUROPEAN ASSOCIATION OF INFORMATION SERVICES

In this issue

Annual Conference	1
Conference Programme	2
Session Summaries	4
25 years of IDC-KTHB	12
Three (short) reviews	14
Good News!	16

Number 115 - November/December 1992
Editor: Barry Mahon
ISSN 0 141 6243

"PERMISSION TO REPRODUCE THIS MATERIAL HAS BEEN GRANTED BY

TO THE EDUCATIONAL RESOURCES INFORMATION CENTER (ERIC)."

Members of EUSIDIC Council 1992

Pierre Buffet, Chairman Questel, S.A., France	Tel: +33 1 46 14 55 55
Rosa de la Viesca, Vice Chairman ICYT, Spain	Tel: +34 1 563 5482
Helena Basilier, Vice Chairman Kone, Finland	Tel: +358 0 4751
Mickey Risseeuw, Treasurer International Translations Centre, The Netherlands	Tel: +31 15 142 242
Peter Clague, Former Director of Inspec	Tel: +44 438 313311
Helen Henderson, IME, U.K.	Tel: +44 71 253 1177
Bernward Jenschke FIZ, Karlsruhe, Germany	Tel: +49 7247 808 500
Nigel Oxbrow, Vice Chairman TFPL, U.K.	Tel: +44 71 251 5522
Marino Saksida, ESA-IRS, Italy	Tel: +39 6 941 801
Leo Waaijers, Delft University of Technology, The Netherlands	Tel: +31 15 785 656
Co-opted: Anne Girard Institut Français du Pétrole, France	Tel: +33 1 47 52 66 76
Arnoud de Kemp Springer - Verlag, Germany	Tel: +49 6221 487 396

Eusidic the European Association of Information Services
PO Box 1416, L-1014 Luxembourg

Telephone: (+352) 250 750 220
Fax: (+352) 250 750 222

Visiting Address: 37, Val St André, L-1128 Luxembourg

This publication copyright © 1992 EUSIDIC. No part of this publication may be re-sold or re-published without the express permission of EUSIDIC

Annual Conference 1992

The 1992 Annual Conference was held in Porto, Portugal from October 13 to 15 1992. Over 140 delegates enjoyed three days of stimulating discussion and listened to a series of presentations which covered a whole range of topics in the information sector. The weather was clement - during the conference - but for those who thought to spend a few days in Portugal after the event the weather was not so kind, on the Friday after the conference finished the rains came! Those of you who were not able to be present may therefore feel pleased that you were spared that, even though you missed a good conference.

What follows is a resume of the presentations - for which the Editor is grateful to the session Chairmen for the notes which helped in the compilation.

We are often asked from for the proceedings of Eusidic conferences and there is a policy not to produce proceedings - so that the presentations may be as informal as the speakers wish and to avoid pressure on the speakers who are normally very busy people. As a compromise, we have decided this year to include the telephone or fax numbers of the speakers, so if you have a question or would like more information you may make contact with them directly.

Paying attention:
- Tomas Baiget & Rosa de la Viesca

Informal Conversation:
Robin Oliphant of the FT & Nigel Oxbrow of TFPL

The secretariat would like to take this opportunity to thank all those who helped to make Porto a success. The feedback was universally positive for which we are grateful (and relieved!). The help, both moral and physical, provided by our Portuguese friends was invaluable and much appreciated as were the efforts of the members of the Conference Committee under Chairman Anne Girard.

Spring Meeting; March 31 1993 Managing the Internet
April 1/2 1993 Image Handling

Both in Brussels, Palace Hotel.

BEST COPY AVAILABLE

Programme

Tuesday 13 October

Session 1: Technology Trends

Chairman: Pierre Buffet, Questel, France

New Information Handling Technologies - foundation for an Information Economy

Nick Farmer, Chemical Abstracts Service, Columbus, Ohio, Fax:+1 614 447 3413

The smart card and applications in information services

Tim Baker, Gemplus, France, Fax: +33 42 32 50 44

Merging Information from different media and sources, providing a common interface.

Hugh Look, Longman Cartermill, Fax: + 44 344 771 80

The next level of Document Communication

Christina Liberman, Manager of Channel Development, Abobe Systems, Europe, Fax: +31 20 6511 311

Session 2: Images and Imagination

Chairman: Helena Basilier, Kone, Finland

SIGANIS - a multimedia information system for nature reserves in Portugal

Ana Luisa T Gomes, Centro Nacional e Informação Geográfica, Fax: +351 1 386 2877

The RAMA Project, Remote Access for Museum Archives

James Hemsley, Brameur, Aldershot, UK, Fax: +44 252 22580

Image information projects and products in the field of agriculture

Dr Manuel Domingues, Ministerio da Agricultura,

Images and Imagination

Sir Charles Chadwyck-Healey, Chadwyck-Healey Ltd., Fax: +44 223 664 40

Wednesday 14 October

Session 3: New Techniques [illegible]

Chairman: Nigel Oxbrow, TFPL

Natural Language in Document Analysis and Information Access

Bill Black, UMIST , Manchester, UK, Fax: +44 200 3099

Digital Geographic Databases - the technical and administrative issues

Heinz Priemer, European GIS Co-Ordinator, IBM Fax: +39 6 5177 2385

Intellectual property protection and digitised information

P.H. Van Wiechen, Elsevier, NL, Fax: +31 20 580 3706

(European) Public Lending Right, its impact on publishing.

Emanuella Giaverra, Director, EBLIDA, Fax: +31 70 314 1574

Session 4: Commercial Changes

Chairman: Helen Henderson

The marketing of CD-ROMs: different needs, different methods

Art Elias, Information Management, Philadelphia, USA, Fax: +1 614 459 0409

Béla Hatvany, SilverPlatter, London, UK
Fax: + 44 81 995 5159

Randall Marcinko, Dynamic Information Corp., USA, Fax: +1 415 259 5005

The Tripartite Agreement between the EPO, JPO and USPTO, its impact on patent information.

Robert Baré, European Patent Office, The Hague, NL, Fax: +31 70 340 3016

The mechanics of co-operation for an international information marketplace

Peter Clague, Inspec
Denise Lohner, CEA
Heinz Ochsner, Radio Suisse

Thursday 15 October

Session 5: New Audiences for information

Chairman: Arnoud de Kemp, Springer Verlag,

The role of Multimedia in developing new learning environments

Stephen Heppel, Anglia Polytechnic University, UK Tel: +44 277 264 504

Newspapers on CD-ROM

Justin Arundale, The Independent, UK,
Fax: + 44 71 956 1555

Understanding the patterns of Japanese information

Mindy Kotler, Japan Information Access Project, Washington DC, Fax: +1 202 728 9614

Marketing Scientific Information to and from Japan

Betty Unruh, Chemical Abstracts Service, Columbus, USA, Fax: + 1 614 447 3713

Session 6: The image invasion

A round table discussion featuring:

Nick Farmer, Chemical Abstracts, USA

Richard Harris, Predicasts, USA

Arnoud de Kemp, Springer Verlag, Germany

Diane Hoffmann, BIOSIS, USA

Session 1

The first session was under the Chairmanship of Pierre Buffet, Chairman of Eusidic and consisted of presentations from Nick Farmer of Chemical Abstracts, Tim Baker of Gemplus, France, Hugh Look of Longman Cartermill and Christina Liberman of Adobe, Europe.

The session was designed as a scene setter on new technologies. Whilst it might seem invidious to pick out one paper there is no doubt that Christina Liberman caused the biggest stir. She presented in a very professional manner a new product which Adobe (the originators of the Postscript 'language' for printing) will launch in early 1993, code named Carousel. The product which will retail at about $300 enables a publisher to create a text with style layout, colour etc. on one machine with one software and ensure that it can be read and even edited if necessary of any other machine with any other relevant software. The effect will be that, for example, a publisher can create a newsletter or other publication, distribute it on any medium with the Adobe product and it can be read in its original style and presentation by any user regardless of their equipment. It also means that documents can be created by multiple authors in networks without regard to the hardware and software available to the individual authors.

The Adobe product is not unique - there are already similar products available from a number of vendors, but given the penetration of the Postscript software of which this product is a development and with which it is totally compatible, then its future seems assured. However, Postscript is not a standard, so compatibility with, for example, SGML has to be a problem.

Close questioning:
Leo Waaijers, TU Delft

Nick Farmer started the session with a masterful survey of the upcoming technologies and their affect on the information producer, distributor and user. He covered all aspects, hardware, software and transmission. The overall message was that we will have - as we have come to expect almost, more power, more speed, more capacity in smaller and smaller packages. Nick painted a picture where the individual information user will have at their disposal a work station with more or less infinite capacity thanks to local and remote networking, which will have many times more capacity than today, will be connected via broad band networks to 'hosts' which will carry enormous quantities of data and offer a tenfold improvement in price/performance compared to today's processor and transmit data and graphics more or less instantly to the user.

He was sanguine about the capacity of the information producers and distributors to keep their products in step with the technology, but he predicted that software would be developed to improve database production and editing.

BEST COPY AVAILABLE

Tim Baker followed with a review of the "Smart Card" and its application in information related environments. He took a broad view of information since the card is designed as a mass market product and classified its use under a number of headings, most of which were concerned with control of one kind or another (see Peter Van Wiechens presentation later for one specific example). One of the worries associated with the greater availability of documents via facilities like the Internet is that their validity is not controlled. Tim offered some tantalising glimpses of how the card could be used in network environments to exercise version control on documents, as a means of authorising or prohibiting editing. Similarly payment systems can be initiated via the card as can 'simple' access control. He talked also about 'rechargeable' cards which could be filled up with new 'money' or authorisations and multiple user versions with more than one password.

Tim was followed by Hugh Look who talked about the design of user interfaces in the world of multiple media. He indicated that with downward pressure on prices for all types of information products the design of interfaces had to be efficient and reusable between products. He predicted that more and more users would want to manipulate data inside the application - not export it to, say, a spreadsheet and re-import it to the application. This would require more 'run time' availability of familiar software built in to information products, word processors, spreadsheets, graphics packages, etc. Hugh predicted that processing languages like SGML would have to be utilised to

a) reduce the intermediate processing in changing from one medium to another and

b) smooth the transitions from original author through publisher to end medium.

Given that many publishers have not yet seriously involved themselves with SGML this could prove painful!

Borut Justin, representing our member in Slovenia

Bill Black from UMIST

BEST COPY AVAILABLE

Session 2 Images and Imagination

The session Chairman was Helena Basilier of Kone, retiring vice Chairman of Eusidic.

The session opened the door to the fascinating world of images and the role of images as information transfer agents. We had the opportunity to hear our two Portuguese colleagues describe two exciting projects in their domains, both concerned, for different reasons, with nature.

Luisa Gomes from the National Centre for Geographical Information illustrated the work they have done to build and develop a data base on the facilities of the nature reserves in Portugal. The database contains thematic maps, of roads, waterways, flora and fauna at the national, regional and local level. It was developed as a result of software development work carried out under an Esprit project and illustrates well how skills are passed on through these projects.

Dr Manuel Domingues gave us a lecture on the management aspects of the creation of the database of the Ministry of Agriculture where he is the Director with responsibility for IT. After the presentation he illustrated the output, a detailed image bank which helps field workers to interpret disease development in plants and to take appropriate remedial measures. It is a pity Dr Domingues did not allow himself enough time to show us more.

Dr James Hemsley made museums and their treasures very much alive for everybody. He described the project RAMA designed to make the facilities of museums available to everybody as well as more specialised material to archivists, researchers, journalists, educators, art dealers and museum staff. The Museé d'Orsay will implement the pilot installation followed by museums in Spain and Germany in 1994. The system is not intended to replace visiting museums, which Dr Hemsley discovered was an activity well observed by the audience, but could be used for 'pre visiting' or by researchers comparing collections of items of the same artist or period. When asked from the audience why Italy was not included Dr Hemsley answered that they had their own projects of a similar nature.

Sir Charles Chadwyck Healey contented himself with words, not pictures, when describing the future for graphics based systems. He asked whether the way ahead was democracy or overload - would the availability of the new media mean that more people could access more information by more means or were they just going to be swamped? The options available for image based information systems were infinite but there were problems. One was copyright. Sir Charles expressed the opinion that the issue had to be solved satisfactorily before there could be significant progress for commercial developers. The associated problems of electronic 'leakage' and corruption could also delay progress. However, he was of the opinion that especially CD-ROM was already offering significant opportunities.

Since Image Management is the topic of the next Spring Meeting the next instalment will be there!

Encouraging us to visit museums:
Dr James Hemsley

BEST COPY AVAILABLE

Session 3

This session which was managed by Nigel Oxbrow of TFPL, produced what was probably the major discussion point of the whole conference, the proposal from Elsevier to introduce, if the present research is successful, a means of controlling reading of texts. Peter Van Wiechen of Elsevier described the work being done under an Esprit (EEC Sponsored) project called CITED. The objective is to create a software package controlled by a "smart card" which would authorise usage of documents. The primary application is clearly in products like Adonis, Elsevier's optical disk based collection of journal material. As might be expected the proposal gave rise to significant reaction from the documentation mangers present who wanted to know whether they would be expected to manage this facility and what effect it would have on journal prices. Peter Van Wiechen was quite open about the policy issues, the publishers wanted to control usage but he was unwilling to discuss details of how it would be implemented.

By comparison, the other papers in the session were nothing like as controversial but nonetheless they gave important insights into developments which will undoubtedly have effects on information management in the future.

The session was led off by Bill Black from UMIST of Manchester UK who gave us a report on the state of the art of context analysis as a means of identifying document content. Bill did not try to oversell the concept, something he said had happened in the past, but was realistic about the prospects which in his view were good for well structured text. The power of modern computing was obviously helping to improve the yield and slow but steady progress could be expected.

Bill was followed by Heinz Priemer of IBM Europe, who discussed Geographical Information Systems and their potential. Heinz was also sanguine about the progress which he said was steady but that standards issues were slowing development despite the fact that much digital data existed already and was being augmented rapidly. He was of the opinion that the specialised markets, utilities, military and public sector generally would grow rapidly but that other markets, tourism, marketing, general public might be slow because the standards needed to be accepted and the application developed.

Emanuella Giaverra the newly appointed Director of EBLIDA - the European Bureau of Library, Information and Documentation Associations, described the status of a proposed EEC directive on Public Lending Right. The proposal would mean that all lending would have to be recorded for the purposes of recompensing authors if required. Emanuella described the present status of the proposal which was that the European Parliament has agreed a text which is now under study by the Commission. She went on to describe the analysis being undertaken by Directorate General 3 on the whole issue of Moral Rights of creators of intellectual works and what proposals may be in the pipeline to harmonise the EEC position.

Sir Charles Chadwyck-Healey

BEST COPY AVAILABLE

Session 4.1

This session, under the chairmanship of Helen Henderson of IME was a panel discussion on the thorny subject of CD-ROM marketing policies, in other words, license or sell. The discussion which had been set up as a negotiation session under the 'guidelines' of the Fisher/Yuri best seller "Getting to yes" soon got down to the bedrock of pricing of CDs. Béla Hatvany of SilverPlatter was, not surprisingly for a detailed discussion between producer and distributor and admitted that no two agreements that they had were the same. Art Elias the former Director of marketing at Biosis said that pricing became the 'culprit' of high costs and low margins, with threats from new technology lurking in the background. Randall Marcinko a document supplier was of the opinion that retailers needed to protect their rights but that everybody in the chain needed to discuss the issue, such as was happening in this session, but not necessarily in public! He claimed that the pricing issue was over-emphasised, retailers like himself should be allowed to package and resell on what ever basis the market wanted with suitable recompense to the different interests. This was not so easy according to Art, there were too many conflicting interests. In an intervention from the floor Roger Summit of Dialog proposed a simplified distribution arrangement for CDs based on royalties per numbers sold, which in his opinion would allow for more innovative marketing and a more valid market.

It was obvious that there was no simple answer to the question and as Art Elias said "we did not even get to maybe" - but the discussion proved lively and is certainly not over yet.

Emanuella Giaverra

Roberto Gambini -
a new member of Eusidic Council

BEST COPY AVAILABLE

Session 4.2

This second part of the session was concerned with the changes brought about by co-operation between different parties to create information products and services. The session started with a presentation from Bob Baré of the European Patent Office on the Tri Partite Agreement between themselves, the US Patent & Trade Mark Office and the Japanese Patent Office, perhaps the most far reaching such agreement in recent years. Bob explained what the agreement was designed to achieve and promised significant developments through the joint projects being undertaken. Typically a system of electronic filing which would enable all three offices to share the data rather than require applicants to file separately; a single database of all DNA related patents; an agreement to store electronically articles selected by examiners in the course of their examination and to make these available to applicants alongside the results of the research and the examination. Bob also admitted that three years of discussion had produced no agreement on the pricing of databases for external hosts!

In the general discussion that followed Denise Lohner of the CEA; Peter Clague of Inspec and Heinz Ochsner of Datastar gave their (different) opinions on the value of cooperation. There was general agreement that co-operative projects had to have clear objectives and that these should be reviewed regularly and not be seen as pious hopes or just political platitudes. One of the participants took the view that the benefits were in inverse proportion to the effort put in which would indicate that good co-operation was something which produced results without much extra effort. The audience seemed to concur with this opinion but it was pointed out that political co-operation had benefits which were not necessarily obvious in the product or service but brought about improved relations between the parties which were useful.

Robert Baré

...ST COPY AVAILABLE

Session 5

Arnoud de Kemp of Springer Verlag, Heidelberg was Chairman of this session billed as one which looked at new audiences for information. The session was led off by Stephen Heppel form Anglia University in the UK who gave a multimedia presentation based entirely on his Macintosh Power Book portable PC, with music, video and still images. Stephen's field of research is learning techniques and he pointed out that their work has illustrated just how receptive the next generation of information users, the school children of today, were to multiple streams of information and that the information systems of the future would have to take account of that.

Stephen was followed by Justin Arundale of The Independent newspaper who compared the different versions of newspapers on CD-ROM and pointed out the problems of a lack of conformity between the presentations and its effect on the creation of a new market for these products. Although he understood the reasons for different command languages etc., he was of the opinion that the structure of the information need to be harmonised in some way if users were not to become frustrated with, as they saw it, minor irritating variations between products.

The second part of the session was taken up with two papers on Japan as a source and a market for information. Mindy Kotler was most enlightening on the patterns of Japanese information generation and use and was insistent that one had to understand the social and political issue inherent in the Japanese structure to get valid information. She said that there was a very comprehensive information generation activity in Japan but that it was often closed to outsiders. What was published or released was not always the whole story.

Not glaring at the audience - more likely listening to a question - Stephen Heppel

Mindy was followed by a comprehensive presentation by Betty Unruh, the Manager of Advertising & Communications at Chemical Abstracts. Betty gave a complete history of CA's involvement with Japan and illustrated the sort of cultural differences which had to be dealt with by showing advertising copy that worked and some that did not!

Justin Arundale

Betty was strongly of the opinion that partnership was the way to go in Japan. There was no real prospect of a "western" organisation making headway in the market on their own.

BEST COPY AVAILABLE

Session 6

The Image Invasion, was the title of this session under the Chairmanship of Geoffrey Thompson of Thompson Henry.

Diane Hoffmann of BIOSIS outlined the current state of electronic image technology and described many areas where it was now widely used. The time was now right for database producers and others in the industry to seriously consider and evaluate image recording and distribution - the prices had come down, the telecommunications had improved and users had more powerful equipment with better graphics.

Diane was followed by Nick Farmer of Chemical Abstracts who said that at the last "Image Industry" conference in the US there were 30,000 attendees. This illustrated in his opinion the potential of a market which was presently estimated as worth $2 billion annually and growing at 12% per annum. Electronic publishing represented about 1% of the present business but the potential for electronic document delivery of geographic, medical and other such data was very large.

Dick Harris of Predicasts concentrated on the business applications potential and pointed out the problems of indexing images and the need to separate searching for images from looking at images. For many business application images were almost a luxury but in the newer areas of electronic newsletter production and distribution the need to illustrate products was important, as was the whole presentational style, these products would require sophisticated distribution channels.

Sauli Laitinen

Hans-Peter Jaun

Arnoud de Kemp spoke from the viewpoint of a publisher who saw image management as another technological development which had to be faced by the publishing community. As a company Springer Verlag was actively pursuing applications involving imaging and were looking at ways of improving the speed of distribution, typically through their participation in the Adonis consortium and through their investigation of new means of distribution of academic papers over academic networks.

BEST COPY AVAILABLE

25 YEARS of IDC-KTHB

This is a contrtibution from long time Eusidic member representative Marie Wallin which recounts a brief and personalised potted history of IDC-KTHB one of the most dynamic information service centres in a very dynamic information environment - Sweden

On the eve of September 28, 1992, Nathalie Dusoulier Directeur Général of INIST, landed in Stockholm coming from Moscow to be next day the main invited speaker at the 25th Anniversary seminar of IDC-KTHB. David Raitt coming from Amsterdam and on his way to Moscow for the East/West Online Meeting arrived the same day to present a paper at our seminar. That made us feel as being a "table tournante", a "node" on the map of important information people on the move. The title of the seminar was "Harvesting new technology to provide scientific information" The programme was not intended to support nostalgia but from the perspective backwards and forwards aimed at fostering reflections for the continued development of the centre's activities. However when calling older partners or earlier IDC employees during the preparations it often sounded as if celebrating 25 years of existence and reviving old memories was a very welcome occasion to dwell on how it was better in the early days of computerised information: think about it we were all younger, and some more beautiful, then.

Better then was it? Björn Tell the head librarian of KTHB at the time and well known also within EUSIDIC as the most international Swede started with recalling his fierce struggles for getting subsidies to start a computerised SDI service for industry 25 years ago. This was often in competition with the initiator of the medical information centre MIC- KIBIC (at the time named BMDC).

What was better of course is that some governmental agencies in Sweden really wanted to develop systems, and networks in co-operation with the other Nordic countries (SCANNET), a market for on-line information in general and some support to database producers. Nowadays central information agencies have disappeared and the only coordinating body is BIBSAM at the National Library. Every sector has to make up its own information provision programme and realise it. In the field of technology and its basic sciences (mathematics. physics, chemistry) the KTHB has been declared national resource since 1990 and this partly because it has a larger information centre, IDC with its 10 subject specialists.

Unfortunately the money does not come with the honour (or very little) and policy and programmes have to remain an adaptation to technological developments as fast as possible but often nowadays following rather than ploughing the furrow.

Some more on IDC-KTHBs history and a reproduction of the different presentations at the seminar will be published as a KTH report mixing Swedish and English as was done at the seminar itself. Language is not really a problem in Sweden where researchers publish often in English to be read abroad. At least we think so but it could be an overlooked problem for researchers in industry at least in our fields where researchers do not like to read, or write for that matter, at all.

Data banks have to be developed and made easily searchable online preferably gathered all together for a given field and the perception of that need is what prompted us to invite also Gil Kaufman of MPDN as one of the speakers at our seminar.

Unfortunately although the auditorium was full to the last place very few "end-users" answered our invitation to attend this type of information related seminar. At the most we can enrol them on information retrieving courses lasting one day or so . Therefore the courses we hold at the Institute are so important These have been going on for more than 15 years now and are becoming obligatory in more and more of the faculties. Librarians in industry tell us they see the difference between engineers having attended our courses and other new employees. The chemists (who else) are also introducing more and more IDC staff participation in postgraduate courses. Training users is an paramount activity for our centre, it gives us income and forces us to keep really up to date both on technology and contents of the databases and databanks.

One way to look at IDC-KTHBs history could be to try to assess its impact. Some picture of that concretised when we were making up the invitation lists for our reception in the evening of the celebration: many of the people active in the "electronic information" business in Sweden nowadays had spent some time as IDC-employees during the years. One of them, Lars Klasén is trying to

compile the statistics of this activity in the country. His last review was also commented in the last Newsidic but does not include all "electronic information" as for example IDCs still comprehensive batch SDI service or CD-ROM products increasing rapidly. The revenue for our SDI service corresponds to about 4% of the on-line "traditional" information and to a much larger percentage of the on-line STI in the country when considering Klasens figures.. This gives us a certitude that an easy (for the user) distribution of information selected by subject specialists and as far as possible backed by easy document ordering and fast delivery has still its place in services which should be provided by IDC. But of course competition with other (on-line) systems has been growing during the years. In many cases also the attitude (i.e. contract conditions) of the database producers has been hardening as contracts are now written for large hosts with huge user bases. Fifteen or twenty years ago we were partners in some common (ad)venture: introducing new ways of accessing information. Now more often the emphasis is on terms like leasers and retailers.

Communication developments have been early in Sweden but in the beginning, at least for packet switching services, triggered by the needs of information intermediaries. Because Sweden had invested so early in computerised information access users were able to follow the international developments and demand similar services from their PTT. Also the Nordic common effort in creating SCANNET well ahead of EURONET had its impact. No real co-operation between database producers could ever be established but the remnant of the network is still in effect to compile registers of the on-line databases in Scandinavia. IDC is the compiler for the Swedish information in that Nordic guide. Being the focal point for the on-line users in science and technology is now a clear policy of the centre born from the fact that so much in this field in Sweden started at IDC or MIC. Of course the centre having been institutionalised as a part of the Royal Institute of Technology Library in 1979 and being funded by that budget must restrict its field of activity to technology and its basic sciences. But also technology requires product and economic information so even these fields have their specialised "informatiker" as we so nicely call our information specialists.

Nathalie Dusoulier at the IDC-KTHB Celebrations

Constantly updating ones own knowledge is one of the endeavours of IDCs staff but on the technological side, meaning computers and communication to access the sources, the effort is sometimes on the limits of feasibility. Because service to the customers and courses for the students have to be maintained at all costs and staff is being reduced or at least not replaced there is little time left for personal training and evaluating. By attending the same courses as provided for the users of the systems we represent we can catch up and some members of the staff more technically gifted can take over the teaching next time. In some way the proximity of the researchers of the Institute and their expectations is keeping us more or less abreast on the side of technology, the demands of services from users in industry forces us to keep updated in the content of databases. Because academic researchers are not very willing to pay for searches made on their behalf there is not enough demand for our retrieval services just from the Institute but our two user groups complement each other one can say and our broader experience gives a better service to all parts.

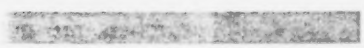
What is left for IDC to do in the next years: as before but better. Certainly. But we are also hoping to be able to again have some development projects which could besides its results provide means for introducing new/youn-

-ger people to this field. Perhaps the information programs of the EEC can give us, Sweden, when and if we become a member of the Community access to such R&D and we will know where to look for the money.

The EEC library programme has it's focal point for Sweden at BIBSAM.

Regarding Impact II we do not know yet but we hope that what has been going on at places like IDC and MIC for 25 years will not pass unnoticed when the time comes.

Last but not least what makes IDC is of course its staff many of them attached to the place for many years: look out for our Xmas card you might see several well known faces!



Three (brief) reviews:

We get a lot of material in the Eusidic office which should be read in detail in order to keep members au fait with what is happening. Of course like everybody else we suffer from Infoglut - too much material, not enough time to read it.

What follows are brief reviews of three of the more interesting items to cross our desk. they are designed to whet your appetite if you are interested in either topic and to make you buy the originals. **After all that is why I get the copies for review - so that you will buy them!**

The first is a publication in the EXCELLENT series produced by what I dare to call one of our 'sister' organisations in the United States, NFAIS. The Report series of which this volume - Multimedia in the Information Industry - is number 4, is very good, well written reports by people who know what they are talking about, with a bias to the information sector applications, on topics of interest.
This report is written by Lois F Lunin presently a consultant in Washington DC but with a long history of involvement in the library and documentation world following graduation from Radcliffe College. The book covers all the base elements of multimedia in detail, explaining the technologies, looking at the knotty problem of standards, examining the creation and design aspects, the copyright problems and the networking issues. There is a section on applications with REAL, LIVE Products described and analysed. Finally there is a section on the market, who will buy, niches, the international market (from the US viewpoint) and the future markets when the technology develops further.
Altogether an excellent primer, if you are 'into' multimedia or planning to be - get it.

The second item is not a single issue but a subscription journal published by Learned Information which I mentioned before - with slightly less than 100% enthusiasm, for which the editor chided me. I have returned to Electronic Documents, a monthly publication which includes a news sheet, not because the editor was mad with me but because I had the opportunity during a recent train trip to read a couple of issues. I said before it needs time to read it - but it is well worth finding the time. This industry is bombarded with "new" items, technology, applications, products, services, etc., etc., Electronic Documents aims to cut through the hype and explain the issues both market and technical. It does it pretty well too. The most recent issue to hand covers the topic of "On-line Books" - defined as any

document over 15 pages produced individually or collectively in a computer environment. It deals with the issues of version control, dual publishing, applications (typically creation and updating of manuals), the enabling technologies, including a good overview of SGML and some products which make it possible. As I said Electronic Documents requires time to read it - it is not a newspaper, but the result is an excellent overview of what is happening in different aspects of the electronic document production and publishing world.

The third item is the latest in the Infornortics series "In-depth Briefings" and is about the Legal and Regulatory environment, written by Charles Oppenheim, now of Strathclyde University but formerly of Reuters, Derwent etc. Charles - who is definitely not Irish, we would not have him, does however have a way with words, especially when they concern the incredibly boring subject of law. Compare these two analyses of the same text in the recent EC directive on database copyright:-

1. This Article 2 also makes it clear that individual items within a database may or may not enjoy their own copyright protection. Thus a database can be protected by copyright even though none of the contents is protected by copyright.

2. Article 2.5 states that the right to prevent unauthorised extraction or re-utilisation shall not apply to the contents of a database where these are works already protected by copyright or neighbouring rights. Where a database is comprised partly of works which are already protected and partly of works which are not protected., it currently has to be inferred that the right to prevent unfair extraction will still apply to the unprotected elements of the database.

I don't think I need to tell you that the first piece was written by Charles (the other one was written by a no doubt erudite lawyer on behalf of EIIA). They say the same sort of thing but one is much clearer than the other. Infornortics, like NFAIS and Electronic Documents is in the business of helping us to understand things that may affect us. In this volume they do a great job of explaining things that are, almost by nature, obscure. The law is well known for being an ass, it is DANGEROUS to allow the lawyers to draw up legislation without input from those who will have to live by it. This book will help you, in a painless way, to confront the lawyers if and when you need to.

Mutimedia in the Information Industry, by Lois F Lunin, published by The National Federation of Abstracting and Information Services, Philadelphia, 1992, $100 - (series price - 4 volumes $340), ISBN 0-942308-37-9

Electronic Documents, monthly, published by Learned Information Ltd., Oxford, on behalf of Expert Information Ltd. Peter Hyams Editor.

The Legal and Regulatory Environment for Electronic Information by Charles Oppenheim, published by Infornortics, Calne Wilthshire, UK, £140, ISBN 1-873699-05-0.

GOOD NEWS!

You can reduce your membership costs (ultimately)

and

reduce your conference costs (immediately)

by recruiting new members

Everyone who recruits a new member will get a 10% reduction on their members rate at the next Eusidic conference. The maximum discount is 50% - five new members.

Every new member increases the income and reduces the future increases in subscriptions, as well as making it easier to stay in contact with your peers.
So, if you know an organisation who could benefit, like yours, from membership of Eusidic, recruit them - and get a reduction on your attendance at the Nice conference (12 to 14 October 1993), reduce your long term costs and improve your contacts in the information sector.

PUBLICATIONS BY EUSIDIC

Research Projects

Interim Report on Barriers to the Growth of the European Information Industry (1986)	A joint working party of EUSIDIC & EURIPA
Collection and analysis of Indicators relevant to the Information Industry in Europe (1987)	CSP International
European Telecommunications - the Information Industry perspective (1987)	Cullen International
Integrated Information Handling: a recasting of Industry Roles (1987)	Mandarin Communications Ltd. & Associated Knowledge Systems
The Influence of the Optical Disc Media on the Distribution, Packaging and Storage of Information (1989)	Peter Vickers Tony Hendley
Liability in the provision of Information services (1989)	S. Denis with the co opertion of J. Derenne, X . Thunis
Artifical Intelligence potential in the Information Industry (1988)	Peter Davies
Competitive Information Programmes 1990 - a Research Report	Everett Brenner

Infomat: Building a quality organisation (Spring Meeting 1992 paper)

Collected Guidelines (1989)

Eusidic Guideline on Updating and correcting electronic databases (Draft)

Public Data Network Survey: Annually

Annual report of EUSIDIC :

Further details on content, availability and pricing from the Secretariat
Fax (+352) 250 750 222

EUSIDIC

THE EUROPEAN ASSOCIATION OF INFORMATION SERVICES

37, Val St. André - B.P. 1416 - L-1014 Luxembourg
Tél. (+352) 250 750 220 Fax (+352) 250 750 222

BEST COPY AVAILABLE

Association registered in the Netherlands